

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An optical film composed of a thermoplastic resin film obtained by using a melt extruding machine, wherein:

said thermoplastic resin film is an alicyclic structure-containing polymer which satisfies a relation of the formula $[\sin^2 2\alpha] \times [\sin^2 (\pi Re/550)] \leq 3.4 \times 10^{-5}$ over the whole surface of the film when an angle made by the extruding direction of the thermoplastic resin film from the melt extruding machine and a slow phase axis at each point is α , and a retardation amount at each point is Re,

wherein said α and Re are measured at 20 points at every 500 mm over 10 m in the film length direction and at 5 points at regular intervals over 490 mm in the width direction and wherein a value of said Re is 2 nm or less.

2. & 3. (cancelled).

4. - 9. (cancelled).

10. (previously presented) A protective film of a polarizer composed of the optical film as set forth in claim 1.

11. (previously presented) A polarizing film having a polarizer and a protective film as set forth in claim 10 stacked on one surface or both surfaces of the polarizer via an adhesive layer.

12. (previously presented) A phase difference film obtained by performing stretch processing on the optical film as set forth in claim 1.

13. (cancelled).

14. (previously presented) The optical film as set forth in claim 1, wherein said optical film is yet to be stretched.